

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VALLET 00452 061125Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03
ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-02 SS-15 SP-02 USIA-15 TRSE-00
/077 W

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FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
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UNCLAS VALLETTA 00452

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: NATO, LY, UR
SUBJECT: LOCAL PRESS ON ADMIRAL SHEAR'S INTERVIEW WITH
L'AVVENIRE

1. MARCH 5 EDITION OF SUNDAY TIMES MF MALTA CARRIED FOL-
LOWING ARTICLE:

- "ADMIRAL HAROLD SHEAR, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, ALLIED
FORCES, SOUTHERN EUROPE, WAS QUOTED IN AN ITALIAN NEWS-
PAPER AS SAYING THAT HE COULD NOT IMAGINE THE PRESENCE OF
SOVIET TROOPS IN MALTA AFTER BRITISH FORCES WITHDRAW FROM
THE ISLAND IN MARCH, 1979.

- "A RECENT ISSUE OF L'AVVENIRE QUOTED THE ADMIRAL AS
SAYING THIS PROSPECT WAS AS UNLIKELY AS THAT OF A NATO
WITHOUT ITALY. THE SOVIETS' ATTEMPT TO MAKE USE OF THE
BASE FACILITIES IN MALTA, TOGETHER WITH THEIR INTERVENTION
IN THE SOMALI-ETHIOPIAN CONFLICT AND THEIR GROWING NAVAL
STRENGTH OF THE MEDITERRANEAN, WERE THE THREE FACTORS WHICH
ARE OF THE GREATEST CONCERN TO NATO AND THE UNITED STATES,
ADMIRAL SHEAR SAID.

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PAGE 02 VALLET 00452 061125Z

- "NATO WAS FULLY AWARE OF THE LIBYANS' AND THE
SOVIETS' EFFORTS TO FILL IN THE VOID LEFT BY THE DEPARTURE
OF BRITISH FORCES FROM MALTA, ADMIRAL SHEAR SAID."

2. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE COMPLETE TEXT OF THOSE POR-
TIONS OF ADMIRAL SHEAR'S COMMENTS PERTAINING TO MALTA.
LAINGEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Draft Date: 06 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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